

# GENE AUTRY

"RAIDERS  
OF THE  
RANGE"

10¢

FOUR COLOR COMIC

No. 57



The Goodwin



**WEB COMIC**  
**UNIVERSE.COM**



HERE IS THAT HARD-RIDING,  
FAST-SHOOTING ADVENTURER,  
**GENE AUTRY**

IN AN EXCITING STORY  
OF THE WESTERN PLAINS,  
WHERE LAWS ARE MADE  
BY GRIM-EYED MEN AND  
ENFORCED BY BLAZING  
SIX-GUNS... WHEN THE  
ROVING GENE ANSWERS

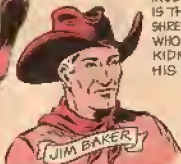
A SUMMONS FROM THE BRAND  
INSPECTOR AT COTTONWOOD, HE  
RIDES INTO A BULLET-MARKED  
ENCOUNTER WITH A DESPERATE  
GANG OF *RAIDERS OF THE RANGE*.

GENE FINDS THAT  
HIS OLD FRIEND, TOM  
LINDEN, HAS BEEN  
MURDERED AND THAT  
HIS RANCH IN FERTILE  
GREEN VALLEY IS  
BEING RUINED BY  
CATTLE RUSTLERS AND  
COLD-BLOODED KILLERS.  
GENE MEETS TOM'S  
PRETTY DAUGHTER,  
ANNE, AND THE LOYAL  
RANCH FOREMAN, JIM BAKER.  
HE ALSO DISCOVERS THAT THE  
EVIL FORCE BEHIND THE PLUNDER-



ANNE LINDEN

INGS OF GREEN VALLEY  
IS THE SMOOTH AND  
SHREWD HENRY JENKINS,  
WHO KILLS, ROBS, AND  
KIDNAPS TO GAIN  
HIS ENDS...



JIM BAKER

GENE OUT-RIDES, OUT-SHOOTS AND  
OUT-WITS JENKINS AND HIS LAWLESS  
RAIDERS IN A FAST-MOVING STORY,  
FILLED WITH ROARING GUNS, STAM-  
PEDE CATTLE AND THE VIOLENT  
STRUGGLES OF MAN AGAINST MAN.



HENRY JENKINS

**GENE AUTRY, RAIDERS OF THE RANGE, No. 57**  
**PUBLISHED BY DELL PUBLISHING CO., INC.**

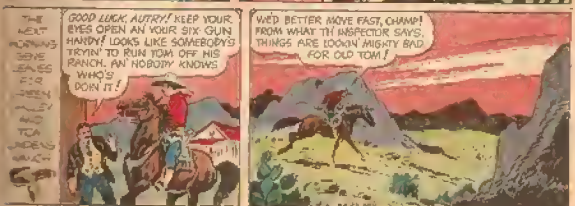
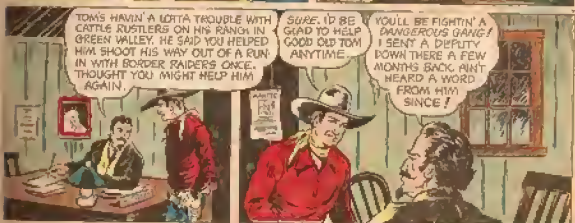
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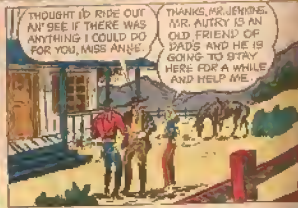
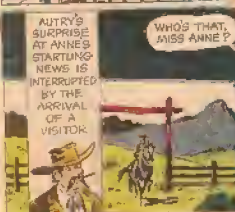
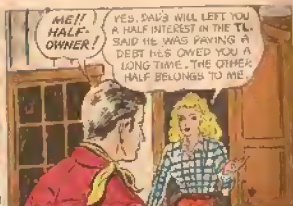
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# Gene Autry

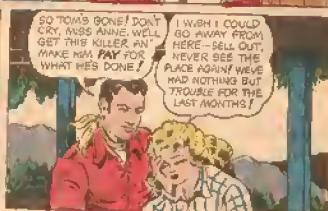
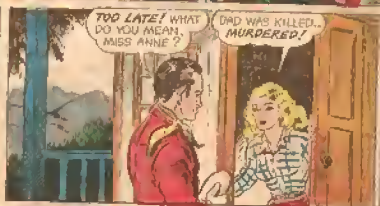
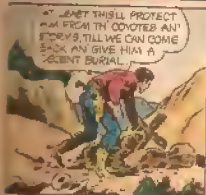
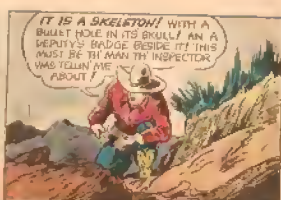
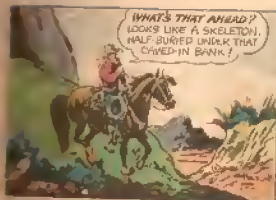
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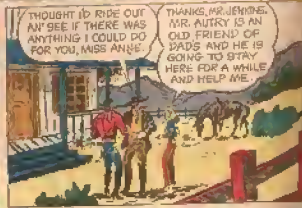
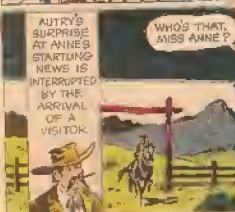
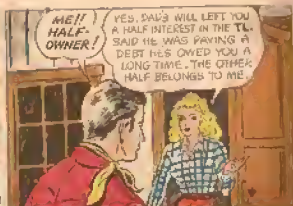
IN ANSWER TO A LETTER FROM  
THE BRAND INSPECTOR, GENE  
AUTRY RIDES INTO THE TOWN  
OF COTTONWOOD

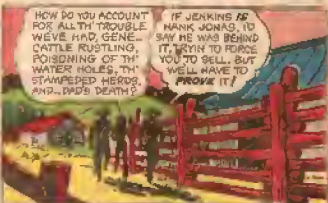
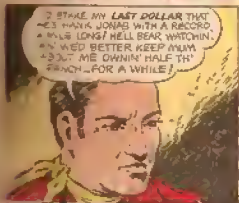
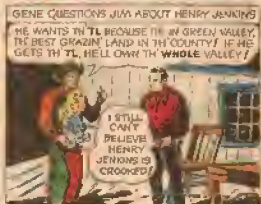
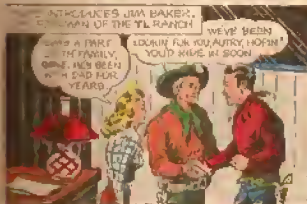








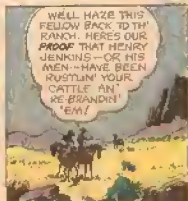
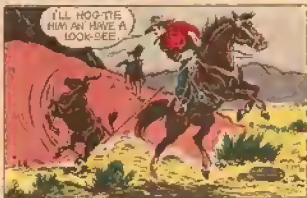
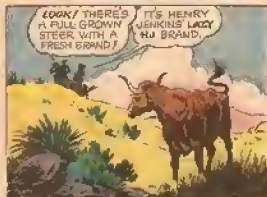






THE  
NEXT  
MORNING  
AUTRY  
AND  
ANNE  
SIDE  
OVER  
THE  
RANCH

THERE'S TH' BOUNDARY LINE BETWEEN  
OUR SPREAD AN' TH' LAZY HJ.  
HENRY JENKINS' OUTFIT.



AS AUTRY AND ANNE RIDE  
TOWARD THE T.L. RANCH,  
A HIDDEN GUNMAN OPENS  
FIRE ON THEM.



THE BULLET STRIKES THE  
CANTLE OF AUTRY'S SADDLE...



RUN, ANNE! WE HAVEN'T  
GOT A CHANCE IN TH' OPEN  
AGAINST THAT  
DRYGULCHER!



WE CAN SLOW DOWN  
NOW, WERE OUT OF  
HIS RANGE!

WE'VE LOST  
THE STEER,  
GENE!



I'LL FIND IT AGAIN! ARE YOU  
CONVINCED NOW THAT JENKINS  
IS BEHIND ALL YOUR TROUBLES,  
ANNE?

YES, GENE, BUT IT'S  
HARD TO BELIEVE. I  
ALWAYS LIKED HIM



EARLY THE FOLLOWING MORNING  
GENE RIDES OUT TO RECAPTURE  
THE BRANDED STEER.

I'LL BE BACK SOON  
AS I FIND HIM.

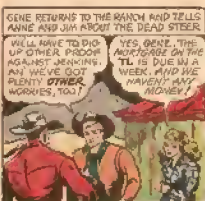


THAT SURE LOOKS  
LIKE TH' STEER  
I'M HUNTIN'!





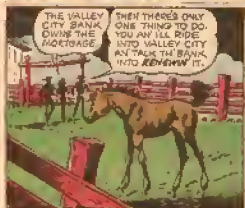
IT'S TH ONE! WANT ALL MOONIES BEEN SHOT AN TH BRAND SKINNED AWAY! WELL, THERE GOES THAT EVIDENCE AGAINST JENKINS!



GENE RETURNS TO THE RANCH AND TELLS ANNE AND JIM ABOUT THE DEAD STEER

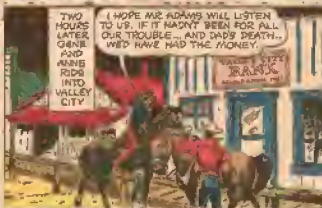
WE'LL HAVE TO DIG UP OTHER PROOF AGAINST JENKINS. AN WE'VE GOT PLENTY OTHER WORRIES, TOO!

YES, GENE. THE MORTGAGE ON THE TL IS DUE IN A WEEK. AND WE HAVEN'T ANY MONEY!



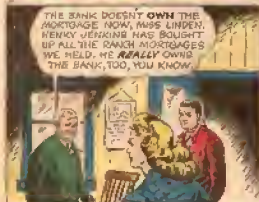
THE VALLEY CITY BANK OWNS THE MORTGAGE

THEN THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO. YOU AN I'LL RIDE INTO VALLEY CITY AN TALK TH BANK INTO RENEWING IT.



TWO HOURS LATER, GENE AND ANNE RIDE INTO VALLEY CITY

I HOPE MR. ADAMS WILL LISTEN TO US. IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR ALL OUR TROUBLE... AND DAD'S DEATH... WE'D HAVE HAD THE MONEY.



THE BANK DOESN'T OWN THE MORTGAGE NOW, MISS LINDEN. HENRY JENKINS HAS BOUGHT UP ALL THE RANCH MORTGAGES WE HELD. HE REALLY OWNS THE BANK, TOO, YOU KNOW.



HENRY JENKINS!

THAT STOPS ANY RENEWAL, I GUESS.

I'M AFRAID IT DOES, BUT I'D LIKE TO OFFER A SUGGESTION.



OF COURSE, MR. ADAMS. WE'D APPRECIATE ANY HELP YOU CAN GIVE US.



THE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, BUILDING THE NEW DAM, NEEDS FOOD. YOU MIGHT SELL THEM ENOUGH BEER TO MAKE THE PAYMENT.



WE'LL GO DOWN THERE PRONTO!

GOOD LUCK TO YOU!

THANKS, MR. ADAMS.

THREE HOURS LATER ATRY MAKES A DEAL WITH THE CONSTRUCTION BOSS.  
 OHH, MR. ATRY. YOU DELIVER A HUNDRED HEAD OF FAT STEERS IN SIX DAYS AN WE'LL PAY CASH ON DELIVERY.



WE'LL START TH ROUND-UP TOMORROW AN' DELIVER THOSE STEERS AHEAD OF TIME! THEN WE'LL BUG N DRAGHT UP MAJOR AGRYSTE JN'KINS!  
 WE'LL GREAT HAT HT HIS LAYN GRAVE!



AT SUN-UP THE NEXT MORNING GENE AND THE OTHERS START FOR THE ROUND-UP



THAT  
 SAME  
 MORNING,  
 IN  
 HENRY  
 JENKINS  
 OFFICE  
 IN  
 VALLEY  
 CITY..

GUT NEWS FOR YOU, CHIEF! TH' CONSTRUCTION COMPANY BOSS TOLD ME THAT ATRY AN' MISS LINDEN MADE A DEAL WITH HIM TO DELIVER A HUNDRED HEAD O' STEERS.



YOU GOTTA STOP EM, BOYS! I DON'T WANT TO LET 'EM SELL THOSE STEERS! AN GOIN' TO FORECLOSE THAT MORTGAGE.. I WANT TH' TL RANCH!



REMEMBER! I'M DEPENDIN' ON YOU!

DON'T YOU WORRY, BOSS! THEY'LL NEVER DELIVER THEM STEERS!



RECKON WE'D BETTER HITAIL OUT TO TH' LAZY HJ AN' GIT TH' BOYS!





KEEP YOUR EYES AN' EARS OPEN, JIM. YOU NEVER CAN TELL WHAT AN HOMBRE LIKE JENKINS WILL PULL NEXT!

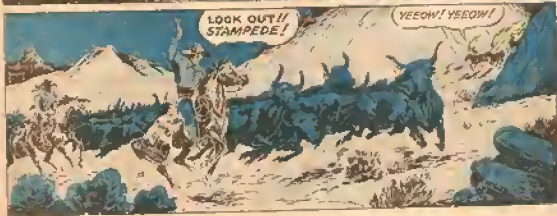


LISTEN, JIM! I HEAR SUMETHIN' MOVIN' OUT YONDER!

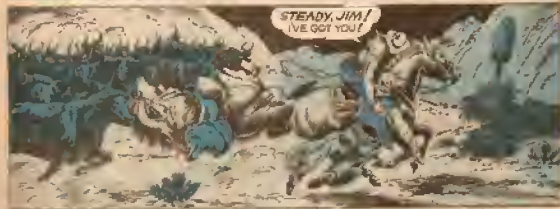


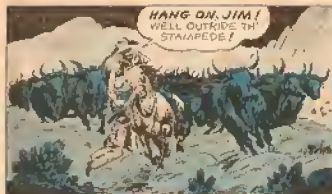
LOOK OUT!! STAMPEDE!!

YEEOW! YEEOW!









HANG ON, JIM!  
WE'LL OUTRIDE TH'  
STAMPEDE!



YOU SAVED MY  
LIFE, GENE! I'D  
BEEN TRAMPLED  
TO DUST!

TH' STEERS ARE  
SCATTERED TO TH'  
FOUR WINDS! WISH  
I COULD GET MY  
HANDS ON THOSE  
NIGHT-RIDERS!



DO YOU  
THINK THEY  
WERE  
JENKINS  
MEN?

I'D BET MY LAST  
DOLLAR THEY WERE.  
SOMEDAY WE'LL HAVE  
A SHOW-DOWN WITH  
THAT HOMBRE!



LET'S GET BACK TO  
CAMP AND SEE IF  
ANNIE'S ALL RIGHT!

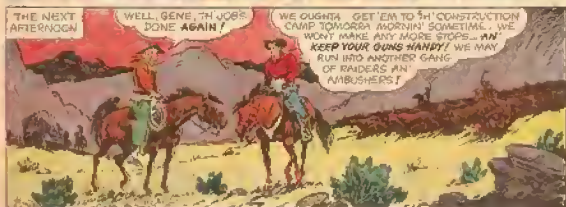


THANK  
HEAVEN,  
YOU'RE  
SAFE!

IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR AUNTIE,  
I WOULDN'T BE HERE! BLUE  
STEPPED IN A HOLE AN'  
STUCK UP WITH ME!



LET'S CHECK ON TH' OTHER BOYS.  
AN' WE'LL START A NEW  
ROUND-UP SOON'S  
IT'S LIGHT.



THE NEXT  
AFTERNOON

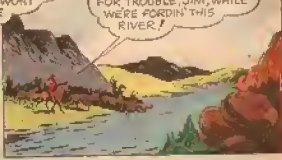
WELL, GENE, TH' JOB'S  
DONE AGAIN!

WE OUGHTA' GET 'EM TO TH' CONSTRUCTION  
CAMP TOMORROW MORNIN'. SOMETIMES, WE  
WOAN'T MAKE ANY MORE STOPS... AN'  
KEEP YOUR GUNS HANDY! WE MAY  
RUN INTO ANOTHER GANG  
OF RAIDERS AN'  
AMBUSHERS!

EVERYTHING'S  
QUIET SO FAR!

BUT SOMETHING'S LIABE TO BREAK  
ANY MINUTE. IF JONAS IS BEHIND  
TH' TROUBLE, HE WONT  
STOP WITH ONE  
ATTACK!

KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED  
FOR TROUBLE, JIM, WHILE  
WE'RE FORDIN' THIS  
RIVER!



MOVE 'EM ALONG  
FAST AS YOU  
CAN, BOYS!



WAIT 'TIL THEY GET OUT IN TH'  
MIDDLE. THEN OPEN UP, BOYS!  
AIM FOR AUTRY AN' TH' LEAD  
STEER! TH' CURRENT'S STRONG.  
IT'LL HELP SCATTER 'EM!

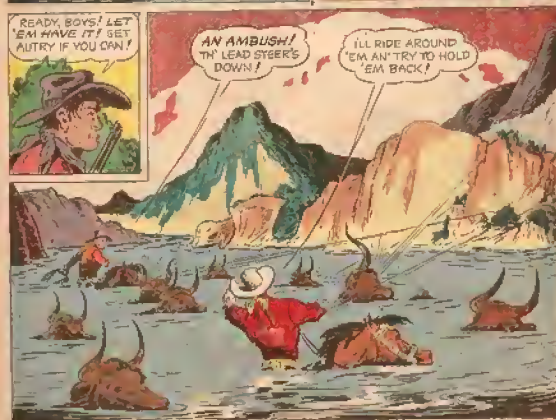


READY, BOYS! LET  
'EM HAVE IT! GET  
AUTRY IF YOU CAN!



AN AMBUSH!  
TH' LEAD STEER'S  
DOWN!

I'LL RIDE AROUND  
'EM AN' TRY TO HOLD  
'EM BACK!

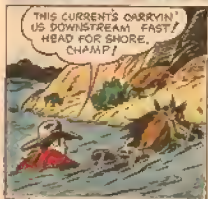




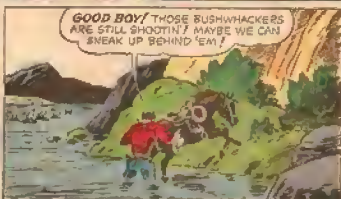
STEADY, CHAMP!  
THIS CURRENT'S  
MIGHTY FAST!



THAT LEAD'S TOO  
CLOSE FOR COMFORT!  
GUESS WE'LL HAVE  
TO SWIM NOW,  
BOY!



THIS CURRENT'S CARRYIN'  
US DOWNSTREAM FAST!  
HEAD FOR SHORE,  
CHAMP!



GOOD BOY! THOSE BUSHWHACKERS  
ARE STILL SHOOTIN'! MAYBE WE CAN  
SNEAK UP BEHIND 'EM!



EASY, CHAMP!  
WE'RE GETTIN' CLOSE  
TO 'EM!



WE MUSTA GOT  
AUTRY. HE'S SURE  
DISAPPEARED!

RECKON THEY WON'T  
GET THAT HERD  
TOGETHER  
AGAIN!

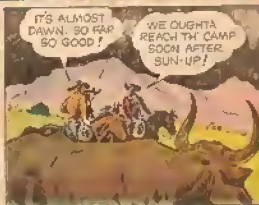
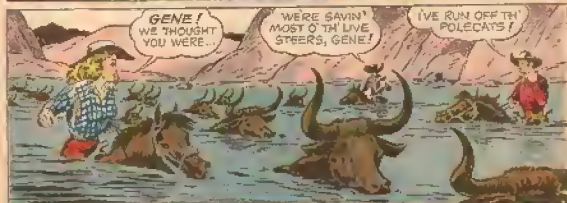
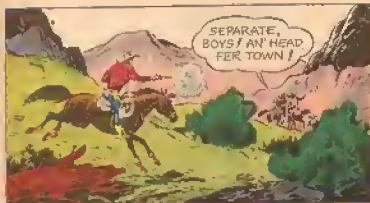
TH' STEERS  
ARE SCATTERED  
FLENTY!



IT'S  
AUTRY!

RUN FOR  
TH' HORSES!

LET'S GET  
OUTA HERE  
FAST!

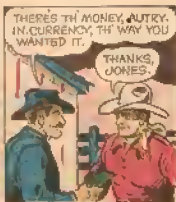






WE GOT 'EM HERE ON SCHEDULE!

YOU SURE DID! A HUNDRED GOOD PRIME HEAD!



THERE'S TH' MONEY, AUTRY. IN CURRENCY, TH' WAY YOU WANTED IT.

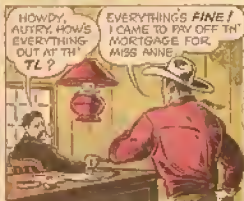
THANKS, JONES.



ANNE, YOU AN' JIM AN' TH' BOYS BETTER HEAD BACK FOR TH' RANCH. I'LL PAY OFF JENKINS. I WANT TO HAVE A LITTLE TALK WITH *THAT* HOMBRE!



I'D BET MY LAST DOLLAR THAT JENKINS IS BEHIND ALL OUR TROUBLES... BUT I GOTTA FIND SOME WAY OF **PROVIN'** IT!



HOWDY, AUTRY. HOW'S EVERYTHING OUT AT TH' TL?

EVERYTHING'S FINE! I CAME TO PAY OFF TH' MORTGAGE FOR MISS ANNE.



I'M GLAD ANNE WAS ABLE TO MAKE THIS PAYMENT. I HATED TO FORECLOSE... BUT **BUSINESS IS BUSINESS!**

IT SURE IS, JENKINS!



THERE'S YOUR RECEIPT AN' TH' MORTGAGE PAPERS, AUTRY. TELL ANNE I'LL BE COMIN' OUT TO SEE HER SOON.

OKAY... AN' THANKS!

BY TH' WAY,  
MISTER JENKINS,  
YOU EVER  
BEEN IN  
BURT  
COUNTY,  
MONTANA?

NO! NEVER! WHY?

YOUR FACE LOOKED  
SORTA FAMILIAR...  
THAT'S ALL!

YOU AIMIN' TO STAY  
'ROUND THESE PARTS  
VERY LONG,  
AUTRY?

LONG ENOUGH TO  
HELP MISS ANNE AN'  
JIM BAKER. GET  
TH' TL BACK IN  
GOOD RUNNIN'  
ORDER. SLONG,  
JENKINS.

IF HE *IS*  
JONAS, HE  
KNOWS I  
SUSPECT  
HIM NOW.

MAYBE  
HE'LL PULL  
SOMETHIN'  
THAT'LL  
GIVE HIM  
AWAY!

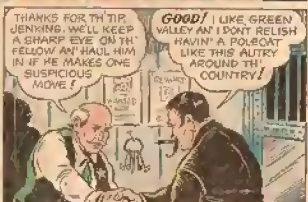
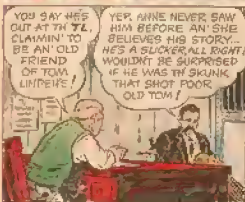
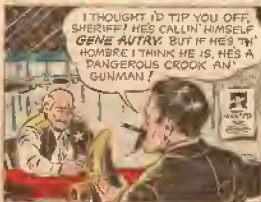
OKAY, BOYS  
C'MON IN. HE'S  
GONE!

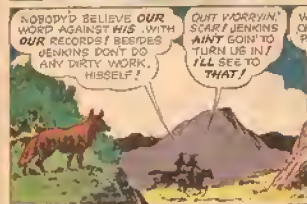
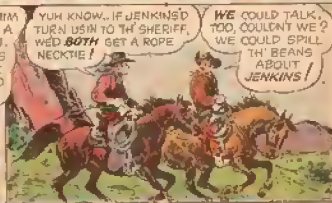
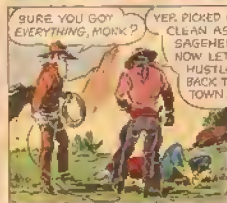
YOU TWO SURE HAVE BOTCHED THINGS  
SO FAR! BUT I'M GOIN' TO GIVE YOU  
**ONE MORE CHANCE!** YOU GOTTA  
GET AUTRY  
THIS TIME!  
UNDERSTAND?

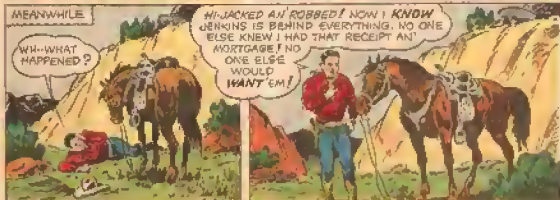
YEAH,  
CHIEF!  
WE'LL GET  
HIM!!

HE'S NEW HERE. HE DON'T  
KNOW TH' SHORT-CUT  
THROUGH GOBUN PASS.  
SO YOU CAN CATCH  
HIM BEFORE HE GETS  
TO TH' TL. GET TH'  
MORTGAGE PAPERS,  
TH' RECEIPT AN'  
ALL HIS OTHER  
PAPERS! **BUT  
DON'T KILL  
HIM!!**

WE DON'T WANT ANY **MURDERS** PINNED  
ON US **NOW**. WE'LL LET TH' SHERIFF DO  
OUR KILLIN' FOR US. ALL  
**NICE AN' LEGAL!** NOW  
GET GOIN' AN'  
**MOVE FAST!**











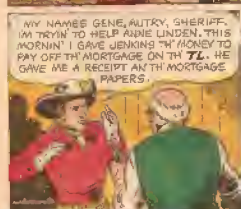
DROP THAT GUN, STRANGER!  
AN' GET YOUR HANDS UP OR  
I'LL DRILL CLEAN  
THROUGH YOU!



I'M TH' SHERIFF  
O' THIS COUNTY.  
WHAT'S YOUR  
BUSINESS  
HERE?



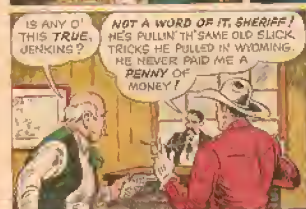
THIS IS TH' HOMBRE I  
WAS TELLIN' YOU ABOUT,  
SHERIFF. HE'S ACCUSIN'  
ME O' STEALIN' PAPERS  
OF SOME KIND  
FROM HIM!



MY NAME'S GENE AUTRY, SHERIFF.  
I'M TRYIN' TO HELP ANNE LINDEN. THIS  
MORNIN' I GAVE JENKINS TH' MONEY TO  
PAY OFF TH' MORTGAGE ON TH' TL. HE  
GAVE ME A RECEIPT AN' TH' MORTGAGE  
PAPERS.

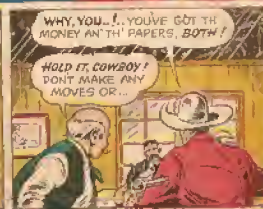


HE'S TH' ONLY  
PERSON WHO KNEW  
I HAD THOSE PAPERS!  
SO IT MUSTA BEEN  
HIS HIRED THUGS  
THAT HI-JACKED ME  
ON MY WAY TO TH'  
LINDEN RANCH AN'  
STOLE 'EM. I CAME  
BACK TO GET 'EM!



IS ANY O'  
THIS TRUE,  
JENKINS?

NOT A WORD OF IT, SHERIFF!  
HE'S PULLIN' TH' SAME OLD SLICK  
TRICKS HE PULLED IN WYOMING.  
HE NEVER PAID ME A  
PENNY OF  
MONEY!



WHY, YOU...! YOU'VE GOT TH'  
MONEY AN' TH' PAPERS, BOTH!

HOLD IT, COWBOY!  
DON'T MAKE ANY  
MOVES OR...



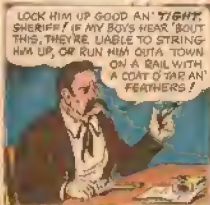
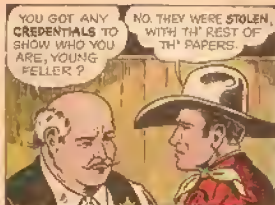
I HEARD AUTRY SOLD A  
BUNCH O' LINDEN CATTLE  
TO TH' CONSTRUCTION CAMP  
AN' WAS PAID IN CASH!  
MAYBE HE CAN TELL YOU  
WHAT HE DID WITH  
THAT CASH, SHERIFF!

SURE I CAN!  
I GAVE IT TO  
THIS LYIN'  
THIEVIN'...



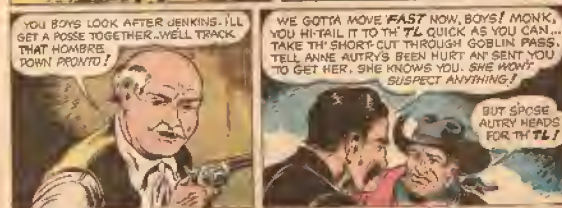
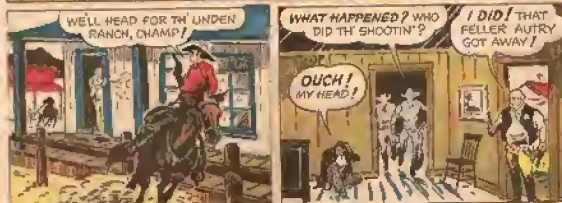
HIS GAME'S AS PLAIN AS  
DAY, SHERIFF! HE STOLE  
TH' MONEY FROM ANNE.  
NOW HE'S TRYIN' TO  
FRAME ME FOR TH'  
THEFT!

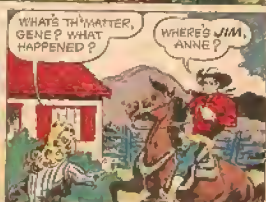
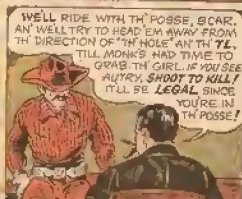
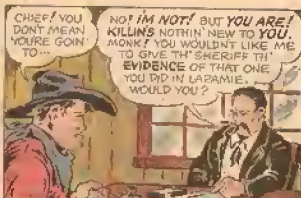
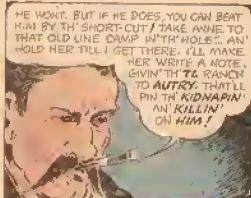
ASK ANNE, SHERIFF.  
SHE'LL TELL YOU WHO  
I AM, AN' THAT I DIDN'T  
STEAL ANY MONEY!



GENE MAKES A WILD LEAP ACROSS THE DESK TOWARD THE SURPRISED JENKINS







HE'S DOWN ON TH' SOUTH RANGE  
WITH TH' REST O' TH' BOYS.  
THEY'RE ROUNDING UP  
SOME YEARLINGS. WHY?

GET HOLD O' HIM  
SOONS YOU CAN, ANNE,  
AN' BRING HIM BACK UP  
HERE! NOW YOU'VE GOT  
TO HIDE CHAMP AN' ME  
QUICK! LISTEN! I'LL  
TALK FAST!

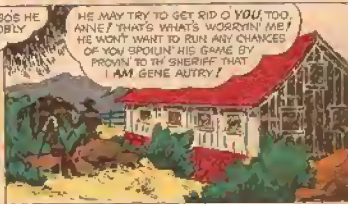
SO, NATURALLY, TH' SHERIFF  
BELIEVED HIS STORY. JENKINS  
IS TH' VALLEY'S LEADIN' CITIZEN  
AN' TH' SHERIFF NEVER SAW ME  
BEFORE. JENKINS HAS YOUR  
MONEY AN' TH' RECEIPT, SO HE  
CAN FORECLOSE AN'  
TAKE TH' TL!



BUT HE'S GOT TO GET RID O' ME, SO'S HE  
CAN HAVE CLEAR SAILIN'! HE'S PROBABLY  
COUNTIN' ON HIS BOYS IN TH' POSSE  
TO DRILL ME GOOD  
AN' COLD!



HE MAY TRY TO GET RID O' YOU, TOO,  
ANNE! THAT'S WHAT'S WORRYIN' ME!  
HE WON'T WANT TO RUN ANY CHANCES  
OF YOU SPOILIN' HIS GAME BY  
PROVIN' TO TH' SHERIFF THAT  
I AM GENE AUTRY!



I'M BETTIN' THAT HE'LL TRY SOME TRICK  
MIGHTY SOON. WE GOTTA FIND A WAY TO  
TURN TH' TRICK BACK ON HIM AN'  
SHOW TH' SHERIFF WHAT A SKUNK HE  
IS! NOW, WHERE CAN CHAMP  
AN' I HIDE?



TH' BARN CELLAR!  
NOBODY'LL EVER THINK  
OF LOOKIN' FOR  
YOU THERE!



FINE!

DAD BUILT THIS NEW BARN ON TH' FOUNDATION  
OF AN OLD ONE. HE LEFT TH' OLD CELLAR. I USED  
TO PLAY IN IT WHEN I WAS A LITTLE GIRL. NO ONE  
KNOWS IT'S HERE. SEE! THERE'S TH' DOOR—  
BEHIND THESE BUSHES!



YOU COULDN'T ASK FOR A BETTER  
HIDE-OUT! THERE'S PLENTY OF  
ROOM FOR YOU AN' CHAMP  
AN' THERE'S A HOLE IN  
TH' BARN FLOOR SO  
YOU CAN HEAR WHAT'S  
GOING ON UP ABOVE  
YOU!

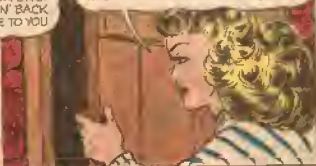




REMEMBER, ANNE! WHATEVER HAPPENS, PLAY JENKINS' GAME WITH HIM... THAT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE OF PROVIN' WHAT HE IS AN' GETTIN' BACK TH' MONEY AN' TH' RANCH! I'LL STAY CLOSE TO YOU SO NOTHING CAN HAPPEN TO YOU!



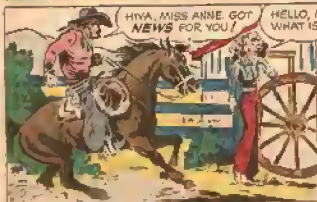
I'LL FIND SOME WAY OF LETTING YOU KNOW IF ANYTHING HAPPENS, GENE!



HIYA, MISS ANNE GOT NEWS FOR YOU!

HELLO, MONK! WHAT IS IT?

YOU ALL ALONE HERE, MISS ANNE?



YES, JIM AND TH' BOYS ARE DOWN ON TH' SOUTH RANGE. WHAT'S TH' NEWS, MONK?



THAT FRIEND O' YOURS, GENE AUTRY, SENT ME TO GET YOU! HE'S HURT BAD! HIS HORSE FELL WITH HIM, TH' BOYS TOOK HIM TO TH' LAZY H.J. HE WANTS YOU TO COME PRONTO!

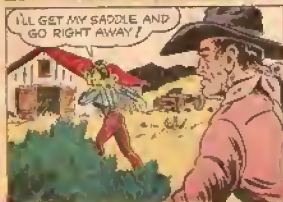
GREAT HEAVENS! I'LL GET JIM AND WE'LL GO RIGHT AWAY!



THERE AIN'T TIME TO RIDE DOWN TO TH' SOUTH RANGE, MISS ANNE. AUTRY'S HURT... BAD!



I'LL GET MY SADDLE AND GO RIGHT AWAY!

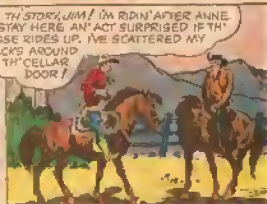
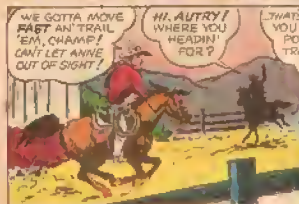
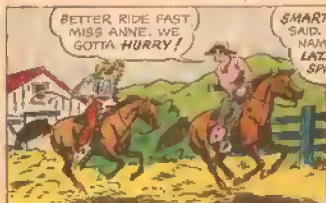


LET'S HURRY, MONK! HOW BADLY IS GENE HURT? OH, DEAR, I'M SPILLING THE OATS!



ANNE SCOOPS UP A HANDFULL OF THE SPILLED OATS





AT THE **TL** RANCH

HOWDY, JIM. SEEN ANYTHING OF THAT FELLA NAMED AUTRY?

HOWDY, BOYS. AUTRY HASN'T COME BACK FROM TOWN YET, SHERIFF. WHY?



YOUR FRIEND, THAT CALLS HIMSELF GENE AUTRY, HAS VAMOOSED WITH TH' MONEY FOR YOUR STEERS, JIM! HE TRIED TO FRAME ME! WERE LOOKIN' FOR HIM!

WHY...THAT DIRTY, THIEVIN' SKUNK!

I'VE BEEN DOWN ON TH' SOUTH RANGE. HE MIGHTA SNEAKED IN. C'MON, BOYS, I'LL HELP YOU LOOK FOR HIM!

THAT'S RIGHT, JIM!



WHERE'S MISS ANNE, JIM?

I DON'T KNOW! SHE ISN'T HERE. PROBABLY WENT FOR A RIDE.

PROBLY THAT SKUNK GRABBED HER. LIKE HE DID TH' MONEY!

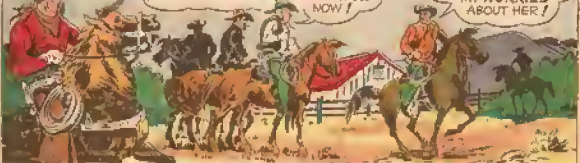
IF HE DID, I'LL GET HIM, IF IT'S TH' LAST THING I EVER DO! C'MON!



AN HOUR LATER

WE'VE SEARCHED EVERY CORNER, AN' HE AIN'T HERE! BUT WE'LL FIND HIM! SOME OF TH' BOYS ARE SCOURIN' TH' HILLS NOW!

MY BOYS AN' I'LL START ON A HUNT FOR ANNE. I'M WORRIED ABOUT HER!



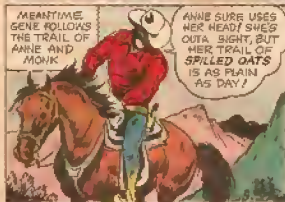


I'LL CUT ACROSS TO MY RANCH, SHERIFF. AN' GET TH' REST O' MY BOYS. WE'LL HELP JIM HUNT FOR MISS ANNE. I DON'T WANT ANYTHING TO HAPPEN TO TOM LINDEN'S GIRL!

GOOD IDEA, JENKINS! IF THAT HOMBRE, AUTRY, DID GRAB HER, I WON'T TRY TO STOP A LYNCHIN'!



TH' T'L'S AS GOOD AS MINE, RIGHT NOW! AN' AUTRY AN' TH' GIRL ARE AS GOOD AS BURIED!



MEANTIME, GENE FOLLOWS THE TRAIL OF ANNE AND MONK

ANNE SURE USES HER HEAD! SHE'S OUTA SIGHT, BUT HER TRAIL OF SPILLED OATS IS AS PLAIN AS DAY!



TH' OATS GO DOWN THIS WAY, SO THEY'RE RIDIN' DOWN THIS GULLY!



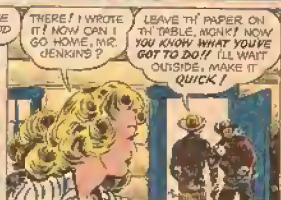
SO THAT'S WHERE HE TOOK HER! THERE'S HER HORSE! STAY HERE, CHAMP, AN' KEEP QUIET. I'M GOIN' DOWN!



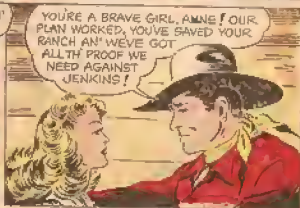
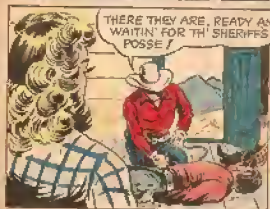
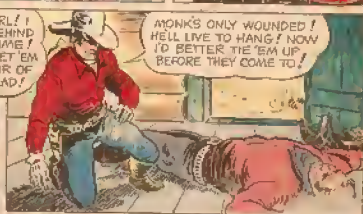
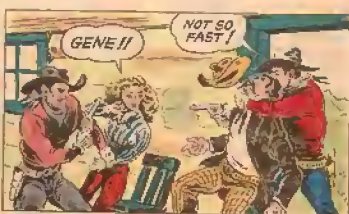
I'M ONLY ABOUT FIVE MINUTES BEHIND HER! NOthin' COULDA HAPPENED TO HER YET.



NOW WE'LL SEE WHAT'S GOIN' ON!









TH' SHERIFF AN' TH' ROSSE, PROBABLY. WELL, WERE READY FOR 'EM.



YES, SHERIFF! GENE AND I'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING!

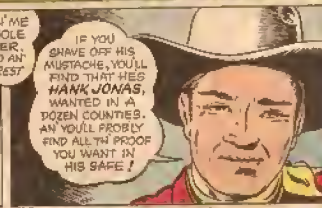
AUTRY! ANNE! JENKINS!



...SO YOU SEE, SHERIFF, WITH ANNE AN' ME OUTA TH' WAY, HED CONTROL TH' WHOLE VALLEY. WHEN YOU FOUND THIS PAPER, YOU'D KNOW FOR SURE THAT I KIDNAFED AN' KILLED ANNE! I'D HANG FROM TH' NEAREST TREE, IF I WASN'T ALREADY KILLED!

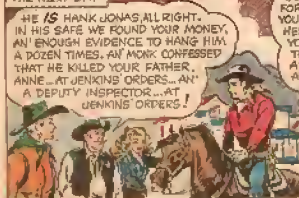


IF YOU SHAVE OFF HIS MUSTACHE, YOU'LL FIND THAT HES **HANK JONAS**, WANTED IN A DOZEN COUNTRIES. AN' YOU'LL PROBABLY FIND ALL TH' PROOF YOU WANT IN HIS SAFE!



#### THE NEXT DAY

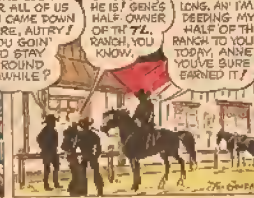
HE **IS** HANK JONAS, ALL RIGHT. IN HIS SAFE WE FOUND YOUR MONEY, AN' ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO HANG HIM A DOZEN TIMES. AN' MONK CONFESSED THAT HE KILLED YOUR FATHER. ANNE... AT JENKINS' ORDERS... AN' A DEPUTY INSPECTOR... AT JENKINS' ORDERS!



SURE LUCKY FOR ALL OF US YOU CAME DOWN HERE, AUTRY! YOU GOIN' TO STAY AROUND AWHILE?

OF COURSE HE IS! GENE'S HALF-OWNER OF TH' **7L** RANCH, YOU KNOW.

I CAN'T STAY LONG, AN' I'M DEEDING MY HALF OF TH' RANCH TO YOU TODAY, ANNE. YOU'VE SURE EARNED IT!



# COWBOY LINGO



## The Cocinero

THE CHUCK WAGON BOSS IS OFTEN CALLED THE "COCINERO." THIS IS A SPANISH WORD, PRONOUNCED "KO-SIN-AIRO," AND MEANS "COOK." IT IS HIS JOB TO SEE THAT THE MEALS ARE READY WHEN THE "HANDS" ARE OUT ON ROUND-UP. HE DRIVES THE CHUCK WAGON AS

IT MOVES FROM ONE ROUND-UP POINT TO ANOTHER AND IS BOSS OF THE KITCHEN WHEN THE OUTFIT IS WORKING AT THE HOME RANCH. MANY OF THE LARGER OUTFITS HAVE A COOK'S HELPER WHO PEELS POTATOES, WASHES DISHES, GATHERS WOOD, TENDS THE

COOKING FIRES, HITCHES UP THE TEAM WHEN THE WAGON IS READY TO MOVE AND MAKES HIMSELF GENERALLY USEFUL. HE IS CALLED THE "BULL COOK." THE COCINERO IS USUALLY AN OLD COWBOY WHO HAS A KNACK FOR COOKING BUT TOO "STOVE-UP" TO WORK AS A COW-HAND.



## Brushed Up

MANY SADDLE HORSES HAVE A HABIT OF HIDING IN THICK BRUSH OR IN A CANYON WHEN THE HORSE WRANGLER IS LOOKING FOR THEM. WHEN THIS OCCURS THE COWBOY SAYS THEY ARE "BRUSHED UP." A WISE OLD BELL-MARE WILL STAND PERFECTLY STILL SO THE BELL WON'T RING.

## Snubbin' Post

HORSE BREAKING CORRALS HAVE A STRONG CEDAR POST IN THE CENTER. IT IS CALLED THE "SNUBBIN' POST." WHEN THE HORSE BREAKER ROPES A BRONC HE TAKES TWO OR THREE TURNS AROUND THIS POST, GRADUALLY TAKING UP THE SLACK UNTIL HE CAN HALTER THE HORSE.

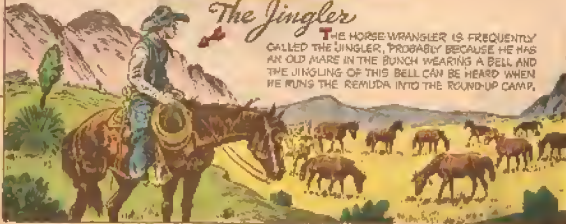


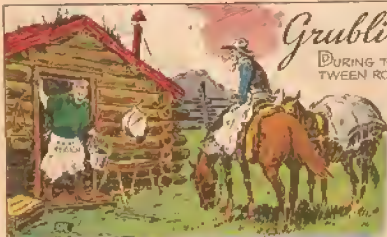
## Iron

A COWMAN OFTEN REFERS TO HIS BRAND AS HIS "IRON" OR HIS "MARK." BRANDS ARE SOMETIMES HIGHLY ORIGINAL IN DESIGN. IT IS ILLEGAL TO BRAND AN ANIMAL UNLESS THE IRON HAS BEEN REGISTERED IN THE BRAND INSPECTOR'S OFFICE.

## The Jangler

THE HORSE WRANGLER IS FREQUENTLY CALLED THE "JINGLER," PROBABLY BECAUSE HE HAS AN OLD MARE IN THE BUNCH WEARING A BELL AND THE JINGLING OF THIS BELL CAN BE HEARD WHEN HE RUNS THE REMUDA INTO THE ROUND-UP CAMP.





## Grubliner

**D**URING THE SLACK SEASON BETWEEN ROUND-UPS ALL OF THE EXTRA COWBOYS ARE "LAID OFF." MANY OF THEM DRIFT FROM ONE OUTFIT TO ANOTHER. THEY ARE KNOWN AS "GRUBLINERS" AND ARE ALWAYS WELCOME TO STAY A FEW DAYS. THE COWBOY IS VERY CAREFUL NOT TO OVER-STAY HIS WELCOME...

## Jackpot

**W**HEN A COWBOY GETS HIMSELF INTO TROUBLE, SUCH AS HAVING HIS HORSE JERKED DOWN WHILE ROPING, HE SAYS HE IS IN A "JACKPOT," A "STORM," OR A "TIGHT"...



## The Rough String

**M**OST BIG COW-OUTFITS EMPLOY A COWBOY WHO DOES NOTHING BUT BREAK HORSES. THESE "UNBROKE" HORSES ARE KNOWN AS THE "ROUGH STRING." THEY ARE USUALLY STARTED WHEN THEY ARE FOUR-YEAR-OLDS...

## Jughead

**T**HE MORON OF THE HORSE WORLD IS KNOWN AS A "JUGHEAD" OR "KNOTHEAD." HE GOES THROUGH LIFE BREAKING THE FENCE AND HALTER ROPES. HE DOES NOT AN OUNCE OF BRAINS...



## Cowpuncher

**W**HEN MOVING CATTLE THROUGH CHUTES FROM ONE CORRAL TO ANOTHER, OR INTO CATTLE CARS, THE COWBOY HAS A "PROD POLE" WHICH HE USES TO PUNCH THE CATTLE ALONG. THIS IS THE WAY HE GOT THE NAME "COWPUNCHER"...

# GENE AUTRY

## IN "The Mystery of the Diamond-A"

WHEN GENE AUTRY STARTS TO INVESTIGATE THE MYSTERIOUS HORSE STEALING AT THE DIAMOND-A RANCH, HE FINDS HIMSELF MIXED-UP IN A DANGER-PACKED STRUGGLE WITH A GANG OF DESPERATE HORSE THIEVES...

IT ALL BEGINS THE DAY GENE RIDES IN THE RODEO AT SEVEN PINES...



STEVE KENDALL and BILL Santee  
OWNERS OF THE  
DIAMOND-A HORSE RANCH



BUD LOSER  
FOREMAN OF  
THE DIAMOND-A

THAT FELLA  
SURE CAN  
RIDE! WHO  
IS HE?

NAME'S GENE AUTRY. HE'S A  
STRANGER AROUND HERE.  
HE RODE IN AN' SIGNED  
UP FOR TH' SHOW.

I UNDERSTAND THIS AUTRY'S GOT A BIG  
REPUTATION FOR LONE-WOLFIN' IT AROUND  
TH' COUNTRY AN' FIGHTIN' ON TH' SIDE O'  
TH' LAW.

I'VE HEARD OF HIM!  
AN' I SURE  
WANT TO  
TALK TO  
HIM!

MY NAME'S STEVE  
KENDALL, AUTRY. I'M  
HALF-OWNER OF TH'  
DIAMOND-A RANCH.

I'VE BEEN HEARIN' ABOUT  
TH' DIAMOND-A. YOU  
BREED FINE QUARTER  
HORSES, DON'T YOU?

YES, WE'RE RAISIN' 'EM FOR  
TH' GOVERNMENT. I WONDER  
IF YOU'D BE INTERESTED  
IN TH' JOB OF RANCH  
FOREMAN!

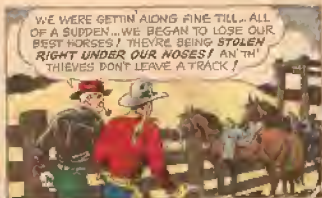
WHY...ER... I  
DON'T KNOW.  
THIS IS SORT  
O' SUDDEN.



I'VE BEEN WATCHIN' YOU ALL DAY. YOU SURE KNOW HOW TO HANDLE HORSES...AN' MEN! WE NEED SOMEBODY LIKE YOU ON TH' RANCH!



WE WERE GETTIN' ALONG FINE TILL... ALL OF A SUDDEN... WE BEGAN TO LOSE OUR BEST HORSES! THEY'RE BEING **STOLEN** RIGHT UNDER OUR NOSES! AN' TH' THIEVES DON'T LEAVE A TRACK!



IF WE DON'T STOP TH' THIEVIN' WE'LL **GO BROKE!** SO THINK OVER TH' JOB, AUTRY...UNLESS, OF COURSE, YOU'RE HEADIN' SOME OTHER PLACE.

I'M NOT HEADIN' ANYWHERE IN PARTICULAR. I JUST HAPPENED TO BE RIDIN' THROUGH SEVEN PINES AN' SAW TH' RODEO. SO I STOPPED.



I'LL TAKE THAT JOB, KENDALL! I LIKE HORSES AN' I LIKE TH' IDEA OF **TRYIN' TO TRACK DOWN THOSE RUSTLERS!**



WE'LL RIDE IN AN' TALK TO MY PARTNER, BILL SANTÉE. BILL AN' I BOTH HAVE OFFICES IN TOWN. HE OWNS A FREIGHT LINE AN' I OWN TH' GENERAL STORE N' TOWN. TH' FOREMAN RUNS TH' RANCH.



BILL AN' I KEEP BUSY IN TOWN. WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME TO SPEND ON TH' RANCH. THAT'S WHY A **GOOD FOREMAN'S** SO IMPORTANT!



THIS IS MY PARTNER, BILL SANTÉE, AUTRY. BILL, MEET GENE AUTRY! I'VE JUST HIRED HIM AS FOREMAN OF TH' RANCH!

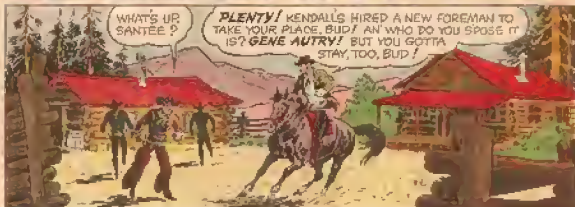
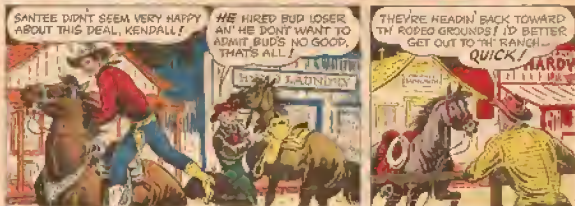
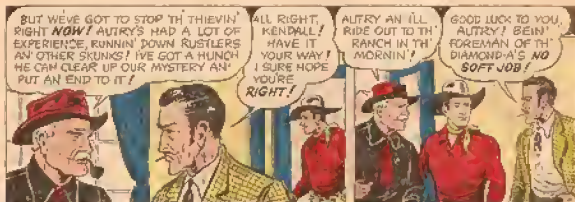
BUT WHAT ABOUT **BUD LOSER**? HE'S A GOOD FOREMAN!



BUD'S NO GOOD AS A FOREMAN...AN' **YOU KNOW IT, BILL!** IF HE LOSES ANY MORE OF OUR BEST HORSES, WE'LL LOSE TH' RANCH!

BUT HE'S ONLY BEEN THERE A SHORT TIME...





NEXT MORNING

THIS IS TH' SPREAD, AUTRY. AN' THIS IS BUD LOSER. BUD MEET GENE AUTRY. HE'S GOIN' TO BE TH' NEW TOP FOREMAN OUT HERE.

WHAT ABOUT MY JOB? I WAS HIRED TO BE **FOREMAN** AN...



AUTRY'S GOIN' TO TRY TO TRACK DOWN TH' HORSE THIEVES, BUD. THAT'S WHY WE HIRED HIM.

I HOPE YOU'LL STAY ON, BUD. I'M GOIN' TO NEED **PLENTY OF HELP!**



ALL RIGHT! I'LL STAY! I AIN'T NO QUITTER! I WANT TO SEE THEM HORSE THIEVES CAUGHT AS BAD AS YOU DO!

GOOD!



THAT LOOKS LIKE Santee, HEADIN' THIS WAY!

IT **IS** Santee! WONDER WHAT'S BRINGIN' HIM OUT HERE!



JUST GOT WORD FROM THAT GOVERNMENT BUYER. HE'LL BE OUT TOMORRA' MORNIN' TO LOOK AT TH' FOUR-YEAR-OLDS.

TH' BEST BUNCH IS OVER IN TH' MESA PASTURE.



WE'D BETTER BRING 'EM IN RIGHT NOW. BUD CAN SHOW ME AROUND.

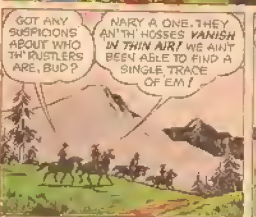
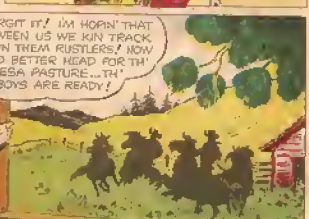
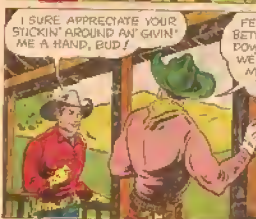
I'LL GET TH' BOYS.

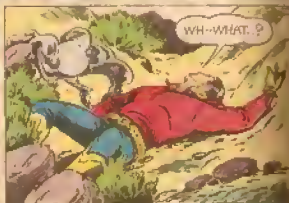
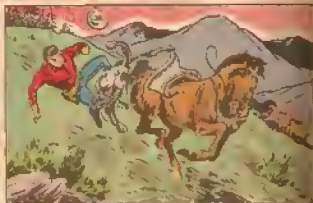


I'LL RIDE BACK TO TOWN WITH BILL. GOOD LUCK, AUTRY.

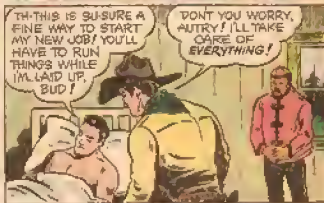
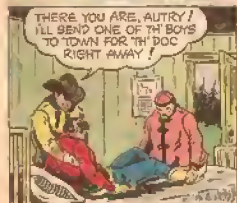
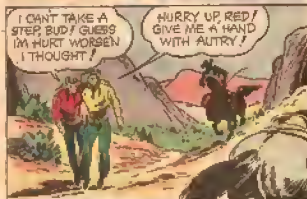
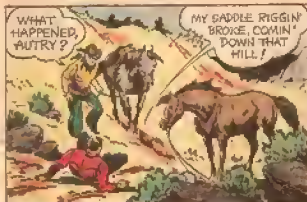
WE'LL BE OUT IN TH' MORNIN' WITH TH' HORSE BUYER.

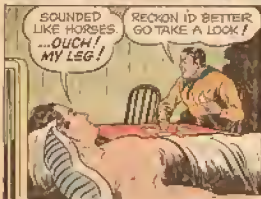
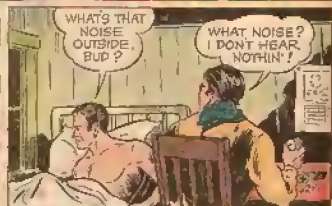
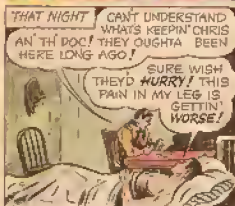
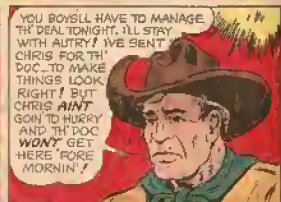
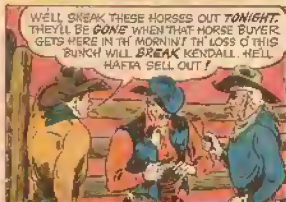
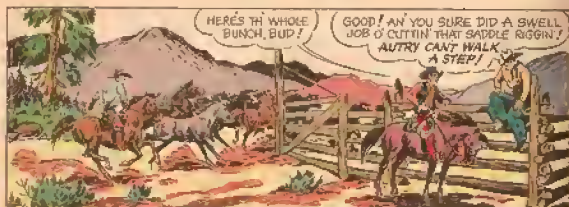


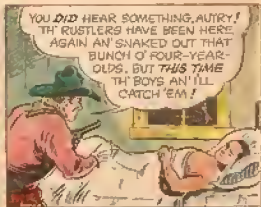
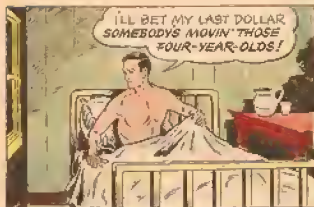


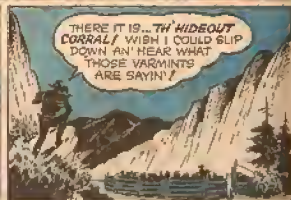
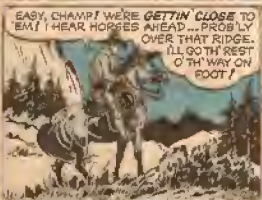
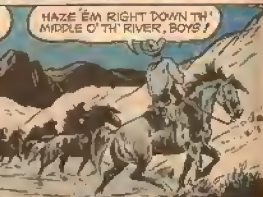
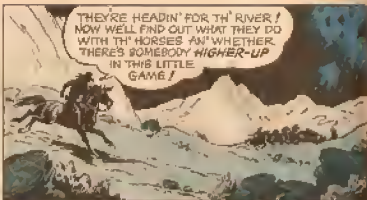
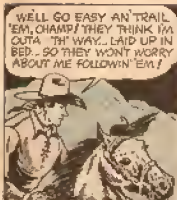


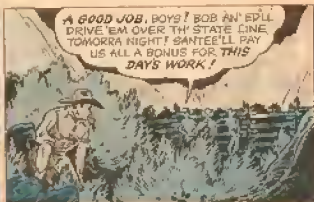
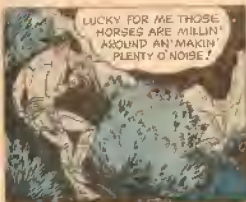












NOW YOU BOYS KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOIN' TO DO! TOMORRA, WHEN SANTEE AN' TH' HORSE BUYER AN' KENDALL COME OUT, TH' STORY IS WE CHASED TH' RUSTLERS BUT LOST THEIR TRAIL AN' HAD TO COME BACK.

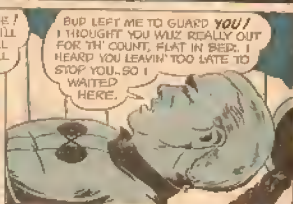
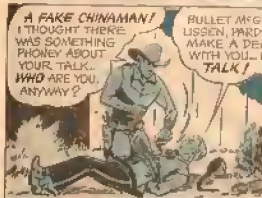
WE KNOW WHAT TO SAY!

BUT WHAT ABOUT AUTRY, BUD?

IF HE AINT ALREADY DEAD WHEN WE GET BACK, I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM... AN' MAKE IT LOOK LIKE HE DIED ON ACCOUNT OF HIS FALL!









HERE YOU ARE! NICE AN' COZY IN YOUR OWN ROOM! AN' HERE YOU'LL **STAY** FOR A WHILE!

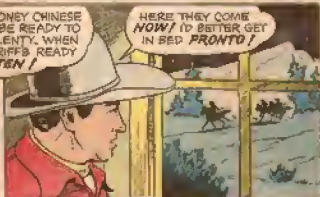


THAT'LL HOLD **YOU**, MR. BULLET-WING! NOW I'D BETTER GET MOVIN'!



GENE THEN RETURNS TO HIS OWN ROOM

THAT PHONEY CHINESE COOK'LL BE READY TO TALK PLENTY WHEN TH' SHERIFFS READY TO **LISTEN**!



HERE THEY COME **NOW**! I'D BETTER GET IN BED **PRONTO**!



**AUTRY!**  
ARE YOU AWAKE?



HE MUSTA **PASSED OUT**! NOW'S TH' TIME TO FINISH TH' **JOB**...



**PUT UP YOUR HANDS, BUD!** YOUR LITTLE GAMES **ALL OVER**!

**AUTRY!!**  
WH-WHHH...

